

# NATO AGS

## ON COURSE AT MOSS POINT

By Jessica Burtness

On Dec. 3, employees of Northrop Grumman's Moss Point, Miss., Unmanned Systems Center made history by starting production on the first NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) aircraft.

NATO representatives, community leaders and Northrop Grumman employees celebrated the start of production with a small ceremony.

The aircraft is the first of five enhanced Block 40 aircraft that will be delivered to NATO. The system will provide unprecedented near-real-time terrestrial and maritime situational awareness information throughout the full range of NATO military and civil-military missions, including peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations.

"The variety of sensors and ability to support a wide range of missions will revolutionize how NATO collects intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance," said Jim Edge, general manager, NATO AGS Management Agency.

"It was an honor to witness the start of production for the first NATO aircraft, and I'm excited at being one step closer to delivering the AGS system."

The NATO AGS system also includes European-sourced ground assets that will provide in-theater support to commanders of deployed forces. Mission Operation Support, mobile and transportable ground stations will provide an interface between the AGS core system and a wide range

of interoperable NATO and national command, control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems.

The NATO AGS unmanned aerial vehicles will be equipped with the multimode Multi-Platform Radar Technology Insertion Program airborne ground surveillance radar sensor to provide all-weather, day-or-night intelligence to the NATO Alliance.

Moss Point Unmanned Systems Center is also home to Triton and Fire Scout production. The facility

opened in 2006 with just 26 workers and has now grown to almost 70 employees.

"I'm very proud of this team," said Jim Culmo, vice president, High-Altitude, Long-Endurance (HALE) Enterprise.

"The concepts of innovation, performance, affordability, collaboration and leadership are at the very heart of who the people are here at Moss Point Unmanned Systems. There isn't a better team to build the first NATO AGS aircraft." ▴



Jim Edge, general manager for NATO AGS Management Agency, signs part of the bulkhead of the first NATO AGS aircraft as Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant and Northrop Grumman HALE Enterprise Vice President Jim Culmo look on. Production of the first NATO AGS aircraft started Dec. 3 at Northrop Grumman's Unmanned Systems Center in Moss Point, Miss.

Photo by Steve Potter